



CSD *News Release*

June 4, 2002

OVER 130 PEOPLE ATTEND PRUNING FOR HURRICANES WORKSHOP!

Over 130 people from Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties packed the auditorium at the Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension Service in Homestead on Thursday, May 30 to attend a workshop on "Pruning for Hurricanes."

The workshop was held to help South Florida residents and professional landscapers prepare trees for the 2002 hurricane season, which began last Saturday.

It was conducted in two parts; presentations in the morning and pruning demonstrations on landscape trees in the afternoon.

The first sessions covered "Pruning Palms in Preparation for the Hurricane Season." In that session Cooperative Extension Agent, Dr. Charles Yurgalevitch, illustrated how to properly prune palms while not over-pruning them.

A session on "How to prune fruit trees" was conducted by Dr. Carlos Balerdi, also a Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension Agent, who explained how and why fruit trees are trimmed differently than landscape trees.

C. Way Hoyt, an ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Certified Arborist, explained the importance of the "Proper Structural Pruning Techniques" for strength, health and longevity while Dr. Mike Orfanedes, of the Broward County Extension Education Division, illustrated

“Proper Maintenance & Thinning Techniques.” The diagrams used by Dr. Orfanedes can be found on the University of Florida’s Environmental Horticulture web site:

<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/pruning>.

Prof. George Fitzpatrick of the University of Florida lectured on “Hazard Tree Assessment,” explaining what makes a tree hazardous to people and their possessions, and how to recognize and estimate a tree’s hazard potential.

The afternoon session involved practical demonstrations at which ISA certified arborists Rudy Alemañy, Jason Gerrish, Will Harden, Doug Parks and Jorge Rivera showed proper tree pruning techniques, using trees at the John D. Campbell Agricultural Center. As they pruned the trees they demonstrated the use of the various tools, and how trees which have their canopies thinned allow more air flow through, and offer less wind resistance in the event of a windstorm or worse, a hurricane.

For a list of ISA-certified arborists that work in and around Miami-Dade County please call the John D. Campbell Agricultural Center at 305-248-3311, or click on-line at:

<http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/programs/commurb/publications/certified-arborist-brochure.PDF>

The Cooperative Extension Service is a joint project of the Miami-Dade County Consumer Services Department, the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT

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The Miami Dade Consumer Services Department is an agency of Miami-Dade County government that protects consumers through complaint mediation, business regulation, and consumer education. The Department operates the Consumer Hotline (305) 375-3677, a central telephone number for consumer complaints and information.